

1108 and 1109 in the Kottayam Division ; of these the number charged ; the number of cases disputed ; and the number of cases which ended in punishments ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan (*Excise Commissioner*) : The required *information is placed on the table.

Amount of tree-tax realised in the Kottayam Division.

7. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam** : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount realised on account of tree-tax during 1108 and 1109 in the Kottayam Division ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : The information required is as follows :—

	Rs.	Chs.	C.
1108	79,800	18	9
1109	70,268	21	3

Mr. J. John Kattakayam : എന്റെ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു മലയാളത്തിൽ ഉത്തരം കിട്ടാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് ശേഷമുള്ള ചോദ്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം ഞാൻ പിൻവലിച്ചു നിക്കുന്നു.

President : But so far he has already exhausted seven questions out of the nine. There are only two remaining.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai (*Municipal Council*) : May I know whether I have got the right to put supplementary questions to the main question answered by the Excise Commissioner ?

President : A question has been put and answer given. Supplementary questions are therefore permissible.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : I want to know from the Excise Commissioner what proportion the tree-tax bears to the rentals of the toddy shops in the Kottayam Division ?

President : That question does not arise as a supplementary question. He has asked about tree-tax and information on that has been given.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member whether there is any approved policy in the department in the matter of realising tree-tax ; whether it bears any proportion to the rentals collected from that division ?

President : On what principle is the tree-tax fixed ? Is that the question ?

*Vide Appendix II—page 30.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Tree-tax is sometimes enhanced to make the drink more costly.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : May I know the reason that led to the decrease in the realisation of tree-tax during 1109 ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : It is due to the fall in the number of trees tapped.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai (*Chirayinkil cum Neduman-gad*) : May I know whether the object of enhancing tree-tax is to make drink more costly ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : It is done in furtherance of the policy of the Government towards gradual prohibition.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : If the policy of the Government is prohibition by enhancing the tree-tax and thereby making drink more costly, is it not likely that foreign liquors will be imported into Travancore and that would do away with native drink ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Need not necessarily be so, Sir.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : What is the present price of one bottle of cocoa brandy ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : I claim notice.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : Is not the department bottling cocoa brandy and selling it ? How does the Excise Commissioner claim notice when I ask for the price of a bottle of cocoa brandy ?

President : He says he does not know the present market price of the brandy.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : The price of cocoa brandy does not fluctuate in the market. The department makes it and sells it at a fixed price.

President : The Excise Commissioner has stated that he does not know the price, and has claimed notice. There is no use in pursuing the matter.

The next two questions have been withdrawn by the member.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : Sir, may I put the questions on behalf of the member ?

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : I rise to a point of order, as to whether one member can ask questions sent by another member especially when that other member is present and has withdrawn the questions ?

President : No.